

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 MMO-04 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10 IO-13 ACDA-10
AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /108 R

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APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
-----050015Z 005066 /73

O P 042345Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
INFO OAU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 102061

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MAY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE - ZAIRE

1. FOLLOWING ITEM ON ZAIRE AROSE DURING S"CRETARY VANCE'S
MAY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE. (NO DEPT. BRIEFING HELD.)

2. Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS NOW ON THE
PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE AND WITH THE PAST AND PRE-
SENT INVOLVEMENT OF FRANCE, EGYPT, MOROCCO AND OTHERS IN
THIS CONFLICT?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE HAS CHANGED SOME-
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WHAT SINCE WE LAST MET. THERE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEDIA-
TION EFFORT LED BY THE NIGERIANS, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN VERY
STRONGLY SUPPORTING SINCE THE OUTSET.

I DISCUSSED THIS A NUMBER OF WEEKS AGO WITH FOREIGN MIN-
ISTER GARBA WHEN HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES BEFORE IT
WAS DECIDED TO LAUNCH THAT EFFORT.

I BELIEVE THAT THE SOLUTION WILL HAVE TO ULTIMATELY BE FOUND BY THE AFRICANS IN A POLITICAL SOLUTION; AND THEREFORE I VERY STRONGLY SUPPORT AND WELCOME THIS EFFORT WHICH IS BEING CARRIED FORWARD.

ON THE MILITARY SIDE, AS ALL OF YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO, THE SITUATION HAS SOMEWHAT CHANGED IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. AS A RESULT OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE, THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS APPEARED TO CHANGE ON THE GROUND AND IT HAS RESULTED IN A MOVEMENT BACK FROM THE AREA NEAREST TO THE COPPER BELT CLOSER DOWN TOWARDS THE BORDER WHERE THE FIGHTING APPEARS TO BE GOING ON NOW.

A NUMBER OF NATIONS, BOTH AFRICAN AND NON-AFRICAN, HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE IN TERMS OF BOTH NON-LETHAL, NON-MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTANCE, AND SOME OF THE OTHER NATIONS HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOTH SOLDIERS AND LETHAL EQUIPMENT.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION WITH GREAT CARE AND WORK WITH THE PARTIES IN TRYING TO BRING ABOUT AN ULTIMATE RESOLUTION, WHICH AGAIN I SAY I BELIEVE MUST BE WORKED OUT BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES. VANCE

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